

TO : Chief, Dallas Field Office  
 Approved For Release 2006/12/05 : CIA-RDP79M00983A001300050002-8  
 DATE: 18 March 1977

FROM : Chief, Dallas Field Office

SSCI

77-0507

SUBJECT: Media Inquiry Into Disappearance of George de Mohrenschildt/Report of Alleged CIA Agent, Morris Bishop, Meeting with Lee Harvey Oswald Before Kennedy Assassination

1. Bob Sirkin, a news commentator for WFAA-TV in Dallas, Texas, called the office on 16 March and asked to talk to Jim Moore. He said he wanted to come by with a camera crew and interview Moore concerning his knowledge and connection with George de Mohrenschildt who had disappeared somewhere in Europe (see attached clipping from The Dallas Times Herald of 17 March). Moore declined to be interviewed at which time Sirkin said that he had some information that Moore should know about. Moore again declined and suggested Sirkin report his information to the FBI or to the Sprague committee.

2. On 17 March Sirkin again called and said that he had some important information to tell Moore. He said that he would not ask any questions and that the conversation would be off the record. Moore again refused to see him but gave him the name and phone number of Dennis Berend. Moore immediately called Berend explaining the situation and asked Berend to try to get Sirkin off Moore's back. After talking to Sirkin, Berend called Moore back and suggested that if Moore refused to discuss the assassination or give Sirkin any information he saw no objection to Moore seeing Sirkin but that Moore should use his own judgement, and the decision should be his. Moore called Sirkin back and arranged a meeting. At the meeting Sirkin was very cordial. He asked if the name Morris Bishop meant anything to Moore; and when Moore answered in the negative, Sirkin advised that a Cuban had reported that he had met with a CIA agent named Morris Bishop and Lee Harvey Oswald in the 505 N. Ervay Building approximately a month before President Kennedy was assassinated. The Cuban related that at that time the CIA agent had offered money to Lee Harvey Oswald to kill President Kennedy. Sirkin said that it was common knowledge that the CIA had offices in the 505 N. Ervay Building at the time of the assassination, and it was being reported around town that Morris Bishop was an alias being used by Jim Moore.

3. On Sirkin's 10:00 p.m. news program on WFAA-TV he mentioned the supposed meeting in the 505 N. Ervay Building between the Cuban, Morris Bishop and Lee Harvey Oswald but did not mention his meeting

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had anything to do with Oswald's ac-  
 tions.

De Mohrenschildt moved to Haiti in

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with Moore or use Moore's name on his broadcast. Sirkin  
impressed Moore as an honest, conscientious news reporter who  
is not the type of person who would seek cheap publicity at  
the expense of the Agency. Under the circumstances it is  
Moore's opinion that he was fortunate to have met with Sirkin.  
If Sirkin had reported on his news broadcast of a rumored  
connection between Moore and Morris Bishop it is believed that  
considerable unfavorable publicity might have occurred.

*Walton Moore*  
J. WALTON MOORE

JWM/jb

Attachments

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

had anything to do with Oswald's ac-  
tions.

De Mohrenschildt moved to Haiti in  
May 1963 where he had an oil develop-  
ment contract with the Duvalier gov-

# in JFK panel hearing

By HUGH AYNESWORTH  
Staff Writer

George de Mohrenschildt, flamboyant Russian-born soldier of fortune who befriended Lee Harvey Oswald a few months before Oswald allegedly killed President Kennedy, was the topic of considerable speculation here today — the result of testimony before the House Assassinations Committee in Washington.

De Mohrenschildt was quoted Wednesday by a Dutch journalist, Willem Oltmans, as having made "a shocking confession" that he knew in advance what Oswald was going to do. Oltmans said de Mohrenschildt made the revelation during an interview last month in the Zale Library on the Bishop College campus.

After de Mohrenschildt told him of his advance knowledge of Oswald's actions, Oltmans related to the House probers, de Mohrenschildt accompanied him to Europe and "disappeared." The reporter did not explain the disappearance.

Meanwhile, officials at Dallas' Bishop College, where de Mohrenschildt taught French, claim he left there March 1 on a three-day leave to visit a sick daughter in New Orleans and has not returned. He is due back on the campus next Monday, the termination of the college's spring break, a Bishop spokesman said.

"He said to me, 'How do you think the media would react if I came out and said that I feel responsible for Oswald's behavior?'" Oltmans quoted de Mohrenschildt as saying to him last month. The reporter said that de Mohrenschildt had spoken of him and Oswald as having "a father-and-son-like relationship."

Although de Mohrenschildt's disappearance — if in fact he has disap-

peared — is unusual given the circumstances of the latest allegation, his relationship to Oswald is not and never has been a secret.

De Mohrenschildt testified for more than 10 hours before the Warren Commission in April 1964, and several other Dallas witnesses were asked about de Mohrenschildt's relationship with Oswald. The general concession was that while most of the Russian-speaking community here disliked or distrusted Oswald, de Mohrenschildt often humored him and bought gifts for Oswald and his Russian-born wife, Marina.

De Mohrenschildt and his wife, Jeane, gave the Oswalds clothes for their two small daughters, helped Marina get her teeth fixed, bought them a small, inexpensive phonograph and often took groceries to their home.

"I treated him nicely," de Mohrenschildt told the Warren probers at one point. "My wife treated them like human beings, because that is our way of treating poor people."

"My philosophy is — you may object to that — but my philosophy is not to bend in front of the strong and be very nice to the poor, as nice as I can. And they were very miserable, lost, penniless, mixed-up. So, as much as they both annoyed me, I did not show it to them because it is like insulting a beggar — you see what I mean."

De Mohrenschildt said Oswald was a "semi-educated hillbilly," a man he did not take seriously.

"All his opinions were crude, you see. But I thought at the time he was rather sincere," he added.

It was de Mohrenschildt, also, who visited Oswald shortly after the self-proclaimed Marxist had shot unsuccessfully at former Maj. Gen. Edwin Walker in April 1963. He told the Warren Commission:

"I remember saying, 'Did you take the potshot at Gen. Walker?'" de Mohrenschildt said Oswald appeared "very, very uncomfortable" but that at the time he really did not believe Oswald had done it. "It was a stupid joke on my part," de Mohrenschildt told the commission.

Following his lengthy testimony and the interrogation of many others, the Warren probers said there was no evidence to indicate that de Mohrenschildt had anything to do with Oswald's actions.

De Mohrenschildt moved to Haiti in May 1963 where he had an oil development contract with the Duvalier government — seven months before the

## Secret investigation in Dallas turns up nothing but problems

By UNITED PRESS INTERNATIONAL

A police spokesman said two representatives of the House Assassinations Committee last week conducted two days of secret investigation in Dallas into the death of President John F. Kennedy.

A retired Washington D.C. police lieutenant and a special committee counsel went first to police headquarters to inspect files on the assassination. The files had been shipped to Washington be-

cause of a committee subpoena.

Then the pair drove back downtown to Jack Ruby's Carousel Club. They discovered that the club had been razed and replaced by a parking lot.

Back to police headquarters for a session with officials. While they talked, a city wrecker towed the investigators' rented car from the no-parking zone where they had left it.

The investigators paid a \$20 towing fee and a \$5 parking ticket and left for Washington.